

LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE. What you are dull to-day... Why so lugubrious? Take a salubrious... Verily, verily, things will be merry... You are merry and brave... Temper, but tearfully... If you go wilfully... How can you... Life has two sides to it... Don't be a philosopher... Look not so dimly... Down the abyssally... Hanging over the precipice-brink... Worst of all his is... Hypochondria is... If you would drive away... Like a dove in your innermost cell... Soft let your grumble be... P. Cranch, in Youth's Companion.

TOM'S EXPERIMENT. Tom was in a dilemma... sat on the rocks overlooking the sea... "Win or lose it all..." "I haven't seen Winters come back yet..." "She's thinking about me..." "I hope not..." "I don't know but we'd better go back and get some one to turn out and look for Winters..." "They needn't bother themselves about me..." "It is hardly necessary to say that Tom's 'something particular' was never said; at least, never to Miss Stafford..."

Looking at it from their standpoint, in all probability he was dead. And yet she could laugh. "Heartless creature," thought Tom, disgusted with all the world. "I wouldn't have believed it of her. She didn't care two buttons for me. What a fool I've been. I wish somebody'd kick me!" "I don't want gentlemen saying 'something particular' to my promised wife," said Jack, and then he kissed Miss Stafford, and she kissed him back, and said she'd "do just as he thought best, only it was such fun to bother the silly fellow!" His promised wife! Tom didn't want to hear anything more. He didn't want to see anything more. He had heard and seen enough already. "I don't know but we'd better go back and get some one to turn out and look for Winters," he heard Jack say. "They needn't bother themselves about me," thought Tom, making his way up the rocks as fast as he could. "I'm afraid, Tom Winters, that you've done a great fool of yourself, and that your experiment was a failure. And yet, after all," he added, as he stopped to take breath on the summit of the cliff, "it wasn't, for now you've found out what she thinks of you!" It is hardly necessary to say that Tom's "something particular" was never said; at least, never to Miss Stafford.—Eben E. Rejford, in Chicago Herald.

me the 'something particular' you were going to-day—if you get a chance." "That was it! He got a chance!" "It's a downright shame for her to treat me so," said Tom, watching her and Jack Devere, as they went down the bay. "Sometimes I think she does it to bother me, and sometimes I think she does it because she likes me and wants to make me jealous, so that I'll be sure to propose. But can't be that, either, for she won't let me propose. Hanged if I know what she does mean by it." Poor perplexed Tom sat down and took a newspaper out of his pocket, and tried to forget his trials in its accounts of murders and accidents and other cheerful matters of that sort. Finding them dull, he turned to the story department. There was a little sketch there called "Washed Ashore." Tom read it. It was about a man who loved a woman—as he loved Miss Stafford—and singular coincidence, he couldn't find out whether she loved him or not. One day he was out rowing and lost his hat. The waves washed it ashore. The woman he loved found it. She thought he must be drowned, and to the poor, inanimate thing, she confessed the love she had borne for its owner. The supposed dead man happened to be near at hand, and heard her tardy confession of love. He went down to the beach and engaged a boat. He saw Devere coming as he went down the bay, and Miss Stafford waved him a passing greeting with her sunshade. "That's lucky," thought Tom. "She's seen me going out on the water. I'll leave the boat somewhere along the shore, and it'll be found, and I'll be missing, and she'll be sure to think I fell in, and was drowned, or committed suicide, and when she thinks that, she'll be likely to say or do something that'll give herself away, and I'll hear of it after I turn up, and then I'll know what to do."

Stomachs at Sea. In November, 1881, the steamship Venice, from Savannah to Europe with cotton, while running before a heavy northwest gale was boarded by a tremendous sea. The captain determined to leave to, and men were stationed to pour oil down the closet chutes forward and to throw waste, soaked in oil, to windward. The vessel came round without shipping any water. As she kept falling off, it was concluded to put her agin before the sea, which was done without trouble, and it was found that she kept perfectly dry as long as the oil was used. Again in January, 1884, while crossing the Atlantic to New York, after running before a northwest gale for some time, she was laid to with-out difficulty or danger by using oil in the manner stated. Captain Ritchie, of the English steamer Fern Holme, while on his last voyage from Baltimore to Shields used oil bags while running before a west-southwest gale. He hung one over on each side, just forward of the bridge, and they prevented the ship from taking water on deck. First Officer W. Maltjen, of the German steamer Colon, in December, 1884, used oil bags with remarkable effect. Two bags filled with boiled oil were hung over the bow. The oil spreading over the surface prevented the waves from breaking, and the ship rode quite easily during the continuance of the gale. Captain Jones, of the British steamer Chicago, while rescuing the crew of the brig Fedore, used oil with best results. It was blowing a heavy gale, with a very high sea. The Chicago ran to windward of the Fedore, and during a lull, oil having been poured on the water, the port lifeboat was successfully launched and started. A can of oil was taken in the boat, and by using this the seas were kept down in the immediate vicinity, though they broke in masses of foam a short distance away. As the boat approached the Fedore, the crew of that vessel poured oil on the water, which so calmed the sea that the boat got along without sustaining any injury. About half a gallon of oil was used by the boat during her trip. The brig P. M. Tenker, Captain Charles Barnard, New York to Cuba, in 1872, encountered a northeast gale which four days out. Several heavy seas came on board doing great damage. A small bag with holes punched in the bottom, was filled with oil and hung over the stern. The oil prevented the seas from coming, and the vessel ran for several hours with dry decks.—Scientific American.

The Ruler of Afghanistan. His Highness was dressed in military costume; light-colored coat, astrakhan cap, and loose trousers tucked into shining top boots. His waist was girt by a broad belt studded with silver ornaments, and he wore a sword with richly chased scabbard. He sat his horse well, and wore the air of perfect self-possession and impassiveness which always marks him. He is too dignified even to show surprise or astonishment, and takes everything as a matter of course. His Highness Abdurrahman Khan, ameer of Cabul, is rather a tall, burly man, large of limb, broad-shouldered, slightly inclined to stoutness, his face not of the strong marked Jewish type which prevails so much in Afghanistan, but round and full, with a free growth of whiskers and beard, traces of gray showing in the latter, features clearly marked, and eyes keen as Afghans' always are. From his face one would scarcely judge the ameer to be a man of strong will and determination such as he has shown in his past career. Rather one would judge him to be of a quiet, pacific character, more somewhat by the stress and strain of fortune, but now content for the world to take its way, a man approaching fifty years of age, and with every year lived to the full since early manhood. He has suffered much of late from gout, which his journey from Cabul must have aggravated, and in stepping from the carriage his temporary lameness became apparent. He was dressed in a uniform of dark color, and without the elaborate gold embroidery which some of his officers boasted. He wore a richly ornamented sword, and had two small stars of silver, I think, on his left breast. His headgear was a low, conical cap of gray astrakhan or fur, with a broad, turned-up border, on which glittered some jewels. He looked a soldierly figure, and had an air of dignity which some of his officers boasted. He produced 1,400,000 tons of coal during the year. Texas is 214 times larger than Rhode Island.

THE DIAMOND COUNTRY. Growth and Extent of Diamond Finding in South Africa. A Kimberley (South Africa) letter to the London Times says: Among the "curiosities of commerce" none, perhaps, is more curious than that the major portion of the produce exported from South Africa is simply used for the adornment of ladies. Out of a total value exported of £7,500,000, ostrich feathers and diamonds account for £5,000,000. Twenty years ago all known diamonds had come to Europe or the United States from the recently discovered mines of Brazil and elsewhere, which were calculated to yield not more than £50,000 worth in the year. To-day, situated in the midst of a wide stretching plain affording at all points a sea level horizon of flat "veldt," we find this town of Kimberley with a large European population of wealth and well-to-do people, and a large native population earning every year more than £100,000 in wages. And from this mining oasis in the agricultural desert has been sent in the last fifteen years something like £40,000,000 worth of diamonds in the rough, which, with the cost of cutting, setting and selling, must have taken from the pockets of consumers something approaching £100,000,000. As all the world knows, the South African diamond mines have their own story of unexpected discovery at the least as startling as that of any gold field or other rich mineral deposit in the world. In 1867 the first diamond was found, the favorite toy of a little Boer girl, which she had picked out from among the roots of an old tree. Its genuineness was not long in doubt, and in a few months the bed of the Vaal river was known as a profitable diamond region. Prospecting became the rage, and here and there on the open, flat, grassy veldt diamonds were found in spots with common peculiarities of soil and so forth. In three years' time the secret of the diamond deposits was discovered, and it was proved that they were strange circular isolated, or patches, of peculiar earth isolated from one another and few in number. These were at once "rushed" and a regulation digging community took possession of the new district. Private individuals, previous proprietors, and governments fought for the claim to these mines, but with little success. These squabbles the practical work was carried on marking out these circular patches in diggers' claims over the flat surface. At first the rule was each digger for himself; and with pick and shovel diamonds were brought to grass in such profusion that the whole mining world was started by a sudden, and proceeding in magnitude, real and prospective, any previous find. But, as men dug deeper in their claims, so they found it necessary to arrange and amalgamate with their neighbors; moreover, the deeper they went the more necessary for machinery to hoist the soil to the surface, and then they passed on through the top "yellow," they came upon a "blue" soil which was yet more rich in diamonds. Suffice it to say, that in ten years' time each one of these greater circular areas had been so far emptied of soil as to represent great quarries 100 to 200 yards across and 400 feet deep. The walls of these basins are locally known as "the reefs," and in their greed to secure all they could the older miners cut out all the "blue" right up to the reef. When, however, the cuttings got down deep the walls or reefs began to fall in, owing to the disintegrating action of boiling sun and heavy rain, covering up the surface, and making it impossible at first the digging was simple and cheap—the mere turning up and searching of loose soil; a second stage was reached when the soil had to be cut out and hauled up to the surface with the aid of machinery; a third stage brought the miners to a stiffened blue, which had only to be brought to the surface, but the work was broken up by hand-labor and exposure to the weather, and at the present moment all around the mines are to be seen literally miles of "blue," laid out in shallow layers over the veldt. With these more extended operations came more elaborate machinery for hoisting, for spreading on the surface, and for sorting. Now, each great basin or circle of steam engines working wire rope lifts up and down to the bottom of the quarry, and around the brink run locomotives and trains of trucks, whisking the "blue" so brought up away to be spread out like so much manure over the veldt, and to be taken thence, when dry disintegrated by the weather, broken up by hand, and hauled and rolled, to the washing places, where it is all sent by hydraulic action through a series of rotary sieves and pulsators, on the principle of, in successful mechanical operations, washing away all dirt that is lighter than diamonds. The washings are so arranged that the output of each portion is graduated in size, and falls on a series of sorting tables. At these stand five or six of the principal men—owners and directors of companies among them—spreading out the clean washed stuff, graduated from the size of pebbles to that of sand; and the visitor may stand by in wonder to see the searcher at the one end pick out his eight or ten "big" stones per hour, or assist the searcher at the other busily sorting out of the sand innumerable white specks of diamonds. The day's work, tumbled into small snuff-boxes, will frequently reach a local value of £1,000. One can look into a quarry of slates or stone and see the rocks themselves cut down and carted away for use; but in these quarries the soil and the rock are cut out and dug out, and what for? Simply that out of every 100 tons raised out of the quarry an ounce weight of diamonds may be secured. It is a startling and impressive thought in gazing into these great quarries that all that soil should have been dug out at a cost for labor alone of something like £15,000,000, and with the aid of invested capital of £1,000,000 in machinery, in order to distribute so many hundredweight of precious stones to decorate the ladies of civilized countries. In the early days, when each man worked for himself, there was no diamond stealing, but as it grew to be necessary to work on a larger scale and by the aid of hired labor, and at the same time the process of operating afforded new opportunities for stealing, this crime grew to be one of the great curses of the industry. At present at

every stage of the process laborers or employers come across diamonds. The men down in the mine blasting and picking out the blue, frequently come across the valued stones; and as the "stuff" is handled at every stage diamonds show themselves. The natives posted to empty the buckets coming up from the mine watch keenly for what may glean in the process, and so does the engine driver or mule man who runs the laden trucks out to the floors. And on these floors the regular gangs, who unload and break it up, find many and large "stones," and so, right through the process, there is ample opportunity at every turn to pick up a stone which is sure to be worth pounds and may be worth thousands.

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Story of a Bottle. A sea captain, says the Boston Herald, relates that on June 4, 1884, the schooner E. Bowers, Captain Thompson, bound to Gloucester from Messina, was pitching about in a long ocean swell. We had made a good run thus far, but on this particular day struck a dead calm: There was little to do, except to watch the vessel and whistle for wind, and several schemes were invented by the officers to pass away the time. The second mate of the schooner, Mr. Cruikshank, had left a sweetheart at home, and naturally his mind drifted across the watery waste to her bright eyes. Noticing his preoccupied manner, the captain's wife suggested that he send his love a message from the sea. The idea seemed a good one. He wrote a note, inclosed it in an envelope, addressed it to the young lady at Big Brook, Cape Breton, inclosed the whole in a bottle, and threw it overboard. There was a great speculation at the time as to where the bottle would bring up; but in a few hours a breeze sprung up, and in working the vessel all thoughts of the bottle and its contents were forgotten. The schooner in due time arrived in Gloucester, and Mr. Cruikshank started for Cape Breton. His arrival was expected, but his astonishment may be imagined when his lady love brought forth the identical bottle which the mate had thrown into the sea, and produced the note contained therein. The story of the drift was a singular one. It had been picked up on the shores of Little Dover bay, on the east end of Nova Scotia, after a drift of forty-one days' duration, and the finder sent it to the young lady. Another singular circumstance connected with the finding of the bottle was the fact that the finder turned out to be a near relative of Mr. Cruikshank, although they had never seen each other. The bank of England holds one-seventh of the total bank deposits of Great Britain. The total amounts in the banks is \$37,000,000,000.

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